

Marines SCUTTLEBUTT



Pucker up, Pyle! Reserves Kiss Commissary Cards Goodbye

Thanks to the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2004, reserve Marines can kiss those restrictive commissary privilege cards goodbye and shop anytime they want.

Members of the ready reserve (including members of the selected reserve, and individual ready reserve), members

of the retired reserve who possess Uniformed Services identification cards and their authorized family members now have full commissary privileges.

The Defense Commissary Agency sent word to all continental U.S. stores informing them that members of the America's reserve forces now have unlimited shopping

privileges and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefits. Commissary shoppers will begin to see banners saying "Welcome Guard and Reserve to Full Time Savings" along with other events recognizing these new rules. **M**



Ancient Name Modern Capabilities

Unlike Russell Crowe, this gladiator has no tear-jerking story to bolster its arena capabilities. It has no fear, no appetite and no family to worry over. It lets Marines worry about ethical concerns and has no hesitations about putting the hurt on the bad guys.

The Gladiator unmanned vehicle is remote-controlled,

weighs about 2,000 pounds and is well-versed in the use of all current infantry weapons, including the M-240G medium machine gun and the tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire-guided missile system. Marines use hand-held controllers with color screens to operate the Gladiators from up to four kilometers away.

The on-board cameras allow Marines to see what the Gladiators see in real time. The vehicles' controls are designed like the common gaming systems played by many Marines. The goal is to have Marines pick up the controller and effectively employ the weapon with little in-depth training. The vehicle has been tested using the

weapons organic to an infantry unit and is also being tested using less than lethal riot control weaponry.

Although still in the development phase, the Corps expects to have four of these beasts at every infantry battalion by 2008 and four are scheduled to deploy with a Marine expeditionary unit in 2007. **M**



New Auto Grenade Launcher Enhances Marine Firepower

Tired of firing and adjusting, firing and adjusting – the same old dull routine field exercise after field exercise? Buck up, Marine, there's a new gun in town. The MK-47 Automatic Lightweight Grenade Launcher is a lightweight, portable, 40mm grenade machine gun designed to give gunners a better chance of first round target hits. And everyone knows, the more first rounds you put on target, the less need for extra ammo and thus,

lighter loads to carry. It gets better every minute.

Unlike the current grenade launcher, the 140-pound MK-19, which is "doctrinally" employable in offensive and defensive operations, the MK-47 may really be employable in offensive operations – it weighs only 85 pounds. The Warfighting Lab is experimenting with the weapon to further determine its capabilities.

Fire for effect! **M**

Get Served ▼ At Corps' New High-Tech Server



Have a seat on one of the comfy couches, kick back and feast your eyes on a bank of multiple 42-inch plasma screens. Sound like you're ready to relax for an awesome afternoon of ESPN? Not!

The plasma monitors and reengineered ergonomic design simply scratch the surface of the impressive changes made to the headquarters Marine Corps server room. The updated facility can crunch the numbers in a big way - state of

the art servers have more than tripled computing capacity. Plus there are multiple updates to the power grid, cooling systems and back-up capabilities to prevent the loss of major portions of Marine Corps mission critical

data in the event of an emergency. Modernized changes also allow for 24 by 7 availability with a supped-up design for sensitive, power hungry, high-heat output computing platforms.

Updates are part of a larger plan to eventually bring all of the Marine Corps under one data umbrella. This means all servers will be able to 'talk' so the Corps can backup and move data between multiple nationwide sites at the speed of light - preventing a disastrous loss of communications and data as a result of an attack or natural disaster. For more information on contact Maj. Steve Crow (703) 614-1615 or Lt. Col. Peter Keating (703) 614-9469 DSN 224. **M**

Simulator Training ▼ Goes Hi-Tech

Power up, check in with other online players, form up and begin the assault. Sound like the procedures to join some online gaming adventure? Well, sort of. The scenario spells out the entry into the Corps' updated Aircrew Procedure Trainers.

APTs are the new breed of Marine Corps flight simulator, containerized for portability and lower costs while providing advanced training capabilities for the CH-53E heavy-lift helicopter and the CH-46E troop-carrying helicopter. In an environment that's amazingly close to flight, pilots in the simulator can now truly 'get tactical', operating in any environment - day, night,

night-vision goggle, or adverse weather. This added tactical bonus is quite a kick in the pants when compared to the real-world flight training scenarios that include shrinking budgets and flight hours, encroachment restrictions and shortage of adequate training areas.

Adding to the online experience of the new simulators, the APT's state-of-the-art visual systems exceed anything used in the fleet right now. Better yet - the simulators are networked to allow V-22, CH-46, CH-53 and UH-1N pilots the capability to fly formation training flights, conduct section tactics and enact advanced mission



scenarios - all inside bountiful cyberspace. Leave your PlayStation® at the door. **M**

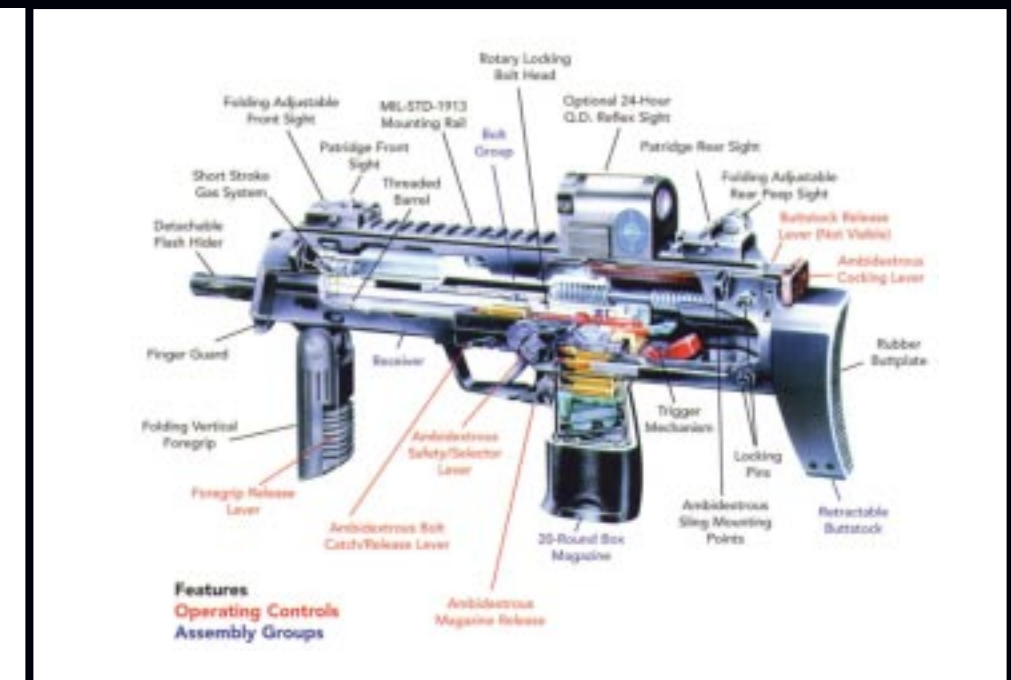
Move Over M9, ▼ the MP7 is Bigger, Better, and 'Badder'

Better buff up those forearms and work on your hand strength, Rambo. The Marine Corps is looking to put a 4-pound pistol in your hands to replace the 2.5-pound 9mm Baretta currently in use.

The MP7 Personal Defense Weapon is a compact, lightweight weapon that has more firepower and versatility than the 9mm. At nearly 15 inches long, the weapon holds 20 rounds in its magazine, compared to the 15 the Baretta holds. It uses the 4.6 x 30 mm family of high performance ammunition. It has a folding foregrip and a retractable buttstock, allowing it to be fired from three different positions - at arms length like a pistol, from the shoulder, or at chest level like an Uzi.

Although it may be larger and heavier than the Baretta, the Warfighting Lab thinks it's just what the operators ordered. The PDW provides penetration and lethality comparable to an assault rifle. The vertical folding foregrip allows for better stability, resulting in more steel on target. It is gas operated and fires from the closed bolt position, using a

rotary locking bolt system. It sports an M16-style cocking handle, a safety/selector lever, and an ambidextrous magazine release and bolt catch/ release. The MP7 is made predominately of carbon fiber reinforced polymer with embedded metal components. It can be field stripped without tools and requires little cleaning due to the unique gas system employed in the design.



Did you say, "little cleaning?" We're sold.

For more information on the MP7 PDW, visit the

Marine Corps Warfighting Lab's Website at http://www.mcwl.usmc.mil/fact_sheets/fs/PDW.pdf. **M**

Three... Two... One... SHORT COUNT

316,733 - Number of contracts recruiters attained for the last 100 months.

1942 - Year the 125,000 acres, now known as MCB Camp Pendleton, was purchased for \$4.2 million.

10 - Marine fatalities in privately owned vehicles for FY 2004 as of Dec 17.

4,200 - Approximate number of toys to the State Department donated to Toys for Tots.

1537 - Year the oldest existing Marine Corps was founded in Spain.

298 - Number of Medals of Honor awarded to Marines.

20,000 - Number of I Marine Expeditionary Force Marines and Sailors preparing for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

1,000 - Yards is the maximum effective range of the M40A1 Sniper Rifle.

12 - Pounds is the average weight loss of Marines attending SERE training.

40,000 - Hours flown Class A mishap free by the Greyhawks of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161.

Characteristics		
	MP7 PDW	M9
Length	14.9" (with buttstock retracted)	8.54"
Width	1.65"	1.5"
Height	6.77"	5.51"
Barrel Length	7.09"	4.92"
Muzzle Velocity	Approx. 2,461 feet per second	1,200 feet per second
Magazine Capacity	20 & 40 rounds	15 rounds
Maximum Range	1,720 meters	(Effective) 50 meters